

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 680

Calling upon President Obama to retract his initial public remarks and apologize to Cambridge, Massachusetts, Police Sergeant James M. Crowley for having unfairly impugned and prejudged his professional conduct in this local police response incident.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. KING of Iowa) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Calling upon President Obama to retract his initial public remarks and apologize to Cambridge, Massachusetts, Police Sergeant James M. Crowley for having unfairly impugned and prejudged his professional conduct in this local police response incident.

Whereas, on July 16, 2009, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Police Sergeant James M. Crowley responded to a 911 call from a neighbor of Harvard University Professor Henry Louis (“Skip”) Gates, Jr. about a suspected break-in in progress at his residence, which had been broken into on a prior occasion;

Whereas, on July 22, 2009, in responding to a question during a White House press conference President Barack

Obama stated “Skip Gates is a friend, so I may be a little biased here. I don’t know all of the facts” involved in this local police response incident;

Whereas President Obama proceeded to state Sergeant Crowley “acted stupidly” for arresting Professor Gates on charges of disorderly conduct;

Whereas, as a former Constitutional Law Professor, President Obama well understands that all Americans are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, and their actions should not be prejudged prior to being fully and fairly judged by an appropriate and objective authority after due process;

Whereas President Obama’s nationally televised remarks may likely detrimentally influence the full and fair judgment by an appropriate and objective authority after due process regarding this local police response incident and, thereby, impair Sergeant Crowley’s legal and professional standing in relation to said incident;

Whereas President Obama appeared at a daily White House Press briefing on July 24, 2009, to address his denouncement of Sergeant Crowley and stated “I could have calibrated those words differently” but “I continue to believe, based on what I have heard, that there was an overreaction in pulling Professor Gates out of his home to the station.”; and

Whereas President Obama refused to retract his initial public remarks and apologize to Sergeant Crowley and, instead, reiterated his accusation impugning Sergeant Crowley’s professional conduct in the performance of his duties: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives calls
2 upon President Obama to retract his initial public remarks
3 and apologize to Cambridge, Massachusetts, Police Ser-
4 geant James M. Crowley for having unfairly impugned
5 and prejudged his professional conduct in this local police
6 response incident.

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